

## REMARKS

Prior to the first Office Action, by this Preliminary Amendment, the Applicant has amended the Specification. Applicant has canceled original Claims 1-20. No new matter has been added. Entry and favorable consideration of Claims 21-27 is respectfully requested.

No additional fees are believed due for entry of the present amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0761.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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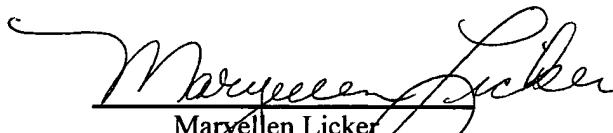
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on JANUARY 14, 2004.

  
Maryellen Licker